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# RASOR: An advanced instrument for soft x-ray reflectivity and diffraction

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We report the design and construction of a novel soft x-ray diffractometer installed at Diamond Light Source. The beamline endstation RASOR is constructed for general users and designed primarily for the study of single crystal diffraction and thin film reflectivity. The instrument is comprised of a limited three circle ( $\theta$ ,  $2\theta$ , and  $\chi$ ) diffractometer with an additional removable rotation ( $\phi$ ) stage. It is equipped with a liquid helium cryostat, and post-scatter polarization analysis. Motorized motions are provided for the precise positioning of the sample onto the diffractometer center of rotation, and for positioning the center of rotation onto the x-ray beam. The functions of the instrument have been tested at Diamond Light Source, and initial test measurements are provided, demonstrating the potential of the instrument. © 2010 American Institute of Physics. [doi:10.1063/1.3458004]

## I. INTRODUCTION

Resonant x-ray magnetic scattering has played a vital role in the understanding of correlated electron systems for more than 30 years. Despite the extensive research in this technique, the vast majority of experiments have observed resonances in the hard x-ray regime (5–15 keV). However, in recent years it has become increasingly apparent that direct observations of the magnetic order must be undertaken through using a resonant transition that excites into the magnetically ordered electronic band. Thus for transition metals, the  $L_{2,3}$  edges provide a direct probe of the magnetically active 3d electron band,<sup>1,2</sup> and the rare earth  $M_{4,5}$  edges probe the 4f electrons.<sup>3</sup> Diffraction utilizing such transitions, known as soft x-ray resonant diffraction, has provided the community with a wealth of results from a variety of systems, and is now becoming a standard technique for physicists studying correlated electron systems.

In this article, we describe the endstation Reflectivity and Advanced Scattering from Ordered Regimes (RASOR), which has been constructed to facilitate soft x-ray diffraction and reflectivity experiments at Diamond Light Source. It has been designed to be used by the scattering community, by providing an extendable endstation that can be used as a standard instrument but also has the capability of supporting future upgrades.

Soft x-ray scattering experiments were first undertaken over 20 years ago, with an in-vacuum diffractometer designed for studying multilayer films.<sup>4</sup> The first scattering experiment at a transition metal  $L$  edge was performed by Kao *et al.*,<sup>5</sup> on a single crystal of Fe(110), directly testing the prediction by Hannon of a large resonant enhancement.<sup>6</sup> By

measuring the reflectivity from the sample, and constructing a model of the reflectivity, they were able to demonstrate that their measurements were sensitive to the magnetic parameters calculated for iron. The experiment was proceeded by a study of Co thin films<sup>7</sup> with circular polarized light, performed on the AT&T Bell Laboratories Dragon beamline<sup>8</sup> at the NSLS. By combining the dichroic effects of circular polarized light with magnetic reflectivity, asymmetry ratios were obtainable for weak magnetic moments, as a function of depth in the material, demonstrating that the technique could be used to separate the magnetic and structural roughness of thin films.

Tonnerre and co-workers pioneered the use of this technique with layered systems, starting with a Ni/Ag multilayer,<sup>9</sup> directly observed the antiferromagnetic peak of the artificial layered structure. Similar studies were then made on Co/Cu,<sup>10</sup> Fe/Mn,<sup>11</sup> Fe/Co,<sup>12</sup> and Gd/Fe (Ref. 13) multilayer structures. Two motivations inspired the first multilayer soft x-ray reflectivity experiments. Hase *et al.*<sup>14,15</sup> looked at samples of Co/Cu multilayers with 25 and 50 repeats, showing that the magnetic interlayer roughness was one or two orders of magnitude larger than the structural roughness. Schäfers *et al.*<sup>16</sup> used multilayer diffraction to develop a soft x-ray polarimeter to detect the polarization state of soft x-ray beams. Soft x-ray reflectivity measurements have facilitated a number of high profile papers on magnetic multilayer materials<sup>17–19</sup> that have potential impact in novel device manufacture.

Soft x-ray diffraction from single crystals was initially driven by the study of magnetic and orbital order in manganites, inspired by a theoretical paper by Castleton and Altarelli<sup>20</sup> suggesting that the structural Jahn–Teller distortion and the orbital order (3d electric quadrupole moment) could be separated by diffraction at the  $L_{2,3}$  edges. After an

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initial study of the magnetic reflection in the antiferromagnet  $\text{La}_{1.05}\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_7$ ,<sup>21</sup> the orbital order was studied in a variety of layered manganites,<sup>22–30</sup> precipitating further theoretical analysis.<sup>31,32</sup>

Following these early results, soft x-ray diffraction has been used to study many more materials, not only transition metal oxides such as cuprates,<sup>33–35</sup> nickelates,<sup>36,37</sup> and cobaltates,<sup>38</sup> but has also been a powerful tool in deciphering the magnetic structure of complex rare earth materials.<sup>39–41</sup> A recent, highly successful, experimental focus using soft x-ray diffraction has been to study multiferroic materials, including the  $\text{RMn}_2\text{O}_5$  (Refs. 42–44) and  $\text{RMnO}_3$  (Refs. 45 and 46) ( $R$ =rare earth), where the large magnetic structure and corresponding small wavevector lend themselves to soft x-ray diffraction. A key result has been the ability to directly separate the components of the magnetic structure, something that is difficult either with neutron diffraction, where the bulk magnetic moment is seen, or with transition metal  $K$  edge x-ray diffraction where the overlap between the higher lying unoccupied states that are probed severely complicates the analysis. Although there are still many unanswered questions regarding the bulk oxides, soft x-ray diffraction has the potential to be a vital tool in the understanding<sup>47</sup> of interfaces between different systems where novel phenomena such as orbital reconstruction,<sup>48</sup> and superconductivity between two insulating layers has been observed. The relatively long wavelength of soft x-rays make it feasible to create a coherent beam with a small aperture in the beam prior to the sample. This opens up a range of opportunities, including studies of magnetic speckle with coherent soft x-ray resonant magnetic scattering<sup>49,50</sup> and soft x-ray resonant magnetic scattering of patterned samples.<sup>51–53</sup>

There are now a large number of dedicated soft x-ray diffractometers situated at synchrotron sources, many of which were influenced from a prototypical scattering vacuum chamber at Daresbury laboratory.<sup>54</sup> Current instruments include the horizontal scattering RESOXS endstation at the SLS (Ref. 55) (Switzerland), a five-circle vertical diffraction chamber on the ID08 beamline at the ESRF (Ref. 56) (France), a horizontal scattering endstation at X1B (Ref. 34) at the NSLS (USA), reflectivity endstations on U4B and X13A also at the NSLS, and a horizontal scattering chamber on BL17SU (Ref. 57) at Spring8 (Japan), a diffraction and reflectivity endstation “ALICE” at BESSY (Ref. 58) (Germany), a scattering chamber at PLS (Korea), and a diffraction chamber on NSRRC (Taiwan). In addition, the authors are aware of instruments being commissioned at the Soleil Synchrotron (France), X1A at the NSLS, and 10ID-2 at the CLS (Canada).

## II. INSTRUMENT DESCRIPTION

### A. Diffractometer

The design for the RASOR diffractometer was based on the following criteria:

- small sphere of confusion,
- excellent for both diffraction and reflectivity,
- low temperature sample environment,
- polarization analysis of scattered beam,

- access to sample and polarization stages, and
- reliability.

A vertical scattering configuration was chosen to benefit from the low vertical divergence of the beam, particularly important in reflectivity measurements. The rotation circles are all mounted on a single side of the vacuum chamber to minimize the effect of vacuum deformation on the sphere of confusion. RASOR was developed and manufactured from the conceptual design by Toyama Co. Ltd.<sup>59</sup> The system comprises a ultrahigh-vacuum (UHV) chamber with goniometer, mounted on a motorized table (Fig. 1). The goniometer provides  $\theta$ ,  $2\theta$ ,  $\chi$ , and sample translations through external stages. Internal vacuum stages mounted on the  $2\theta$  arm provide two sets of vertically defining apertures, and complete polarization analysis. The sample is mounted directly onto the cold finger of a  $\text{He}^4$  flow cryostat that is itself mounted through the center of the goniometer.

The table comprises of three motorized jack feet, upon which a translation of the diffractometer across the beam, and a rotation around a vertical axis is mounted. These provide the necessary motions to position accurately the center of rotation of the diffractometer onto the synchrotron beam. A translation of the goniometer parallel to the x-ray beam is unnecessary due to the low divergence of the beam.

The out-of-vacuum goniometer motions (Fig. 2) provides full  $\theta$  and  $2\theta$  rotations through a set of double pumped differential seals. High ratio gearboxes give a minimum step-size of 0.18 arc sec, and the position is controlled in closed loop with a Renishaw encoder with an accuracy of 1 arc-sec. A limited  $\chi$  arc of  $\pm 4^\circ$  provides sufficient adjustment to align slightly miscut samples, and sample translations can adjust the position of the cryostat by  $\pm 5$  mm vertically and horizontally in the diffraction plane, and  $\pm 20$  mm perpendicular to the sample plane allowing different sample positions to be accessed. The  $\chi$  and sample translation motions are facilitated through two sets of bellows. The sphere of confusion of the  $\theta$ ,  $2\theta$ , and  $\chi$  rotations is within 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , even under vacuum.

Two internal translation stages on the detector arm hold two aperture carriages 103 and 166 mm from the sample position (Fig. 3). These hold a replaceable plate with vertically defining rectangular apertures. The apertures are 20 mm wide horizontally, and have vertical dimensions of 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , 1 mm, and 5 mm. Further out on the  $2\theta$  arm is a complete polarization analyzer. Detectors for scattered radiation are mounted in line with the slit carriages on the polarization analyzer, and also out of the diffraction plane for fluorescence and electron yield measurements (described below).

### 1. Polarization analysis

The diffractometer is equipped with sufficient motions for complete polarization analysis of the scattered beam.<sup>60</sup> A second scattering process is conducted with the scattered beam from the sample forming the incident beam on the polarization analyzer. The analyzer is selected such that the  $2\theta$  angle for the x-ray energy is as close to  $90^\circ$  as possible. The charge scattering is thus only sensitive to  $\sigma$  (for the

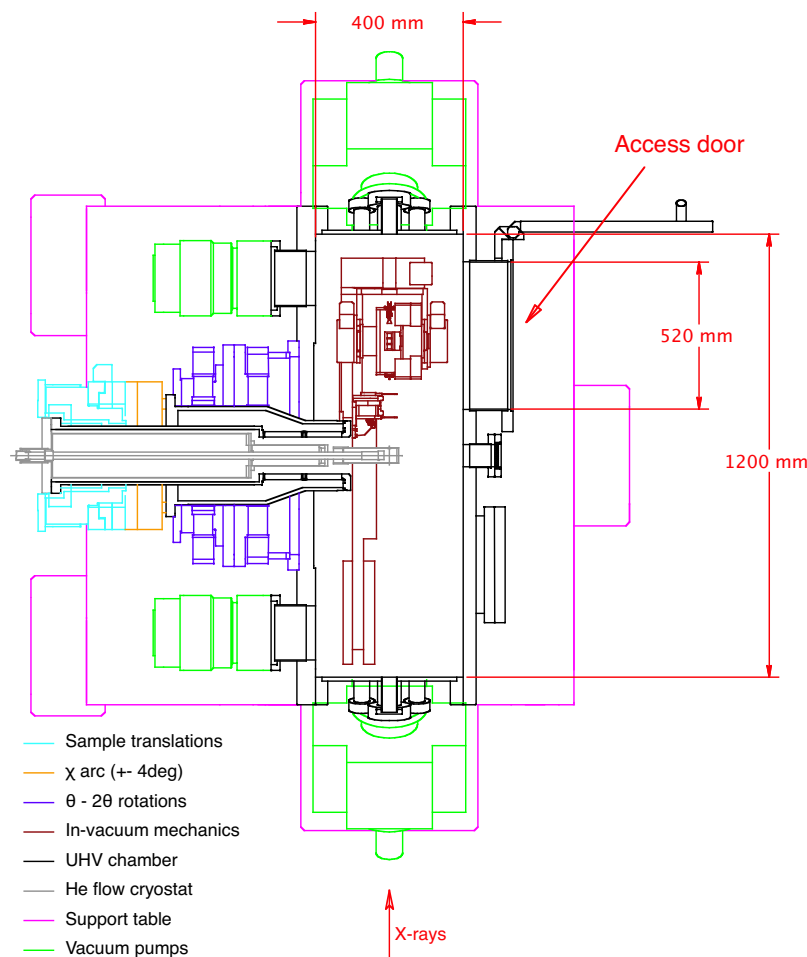


FIG. 1. (Color online) Plan diagram of the diffractometer. The internal mechanism includes two sets of apertures or slits between the sample and detector, and a complete polarization analysis mechanism. The diagram is shown with the  $2\theta$  arm at  $0^\circ$  when the detector would be in the main beam. The dimensions specify the internal dimensions of the vacuum vessel.

analyzer) incident x-rays. As the diffraction plane of the polarization analyzer is rotated around the scattered beam ( $\eta$ ), the intensity of the beam in each polarization state is measured. Rather than measuring the intensity of just the  $\sigma'$  and  $\pi'$  polarization channels,<sup>27,55</sup> the error in the measurement can be dramatically reduced by measuring the intensity every few degrees of  $\eta$  and then modeling the intensity with a

sinusoidal function. This has commonly been undertaken with soft x-ray polarimetry;<sup>16</sup> however has not been performed in a soft x-ray diffraction setting. Combining polarization analysis of the scattered beam with a rotation of the linear polarized incident x-rays, full linear polarization analysis<sup>61–63</sup> can be achieved.

The very low x-ray energies force the use of multilayer

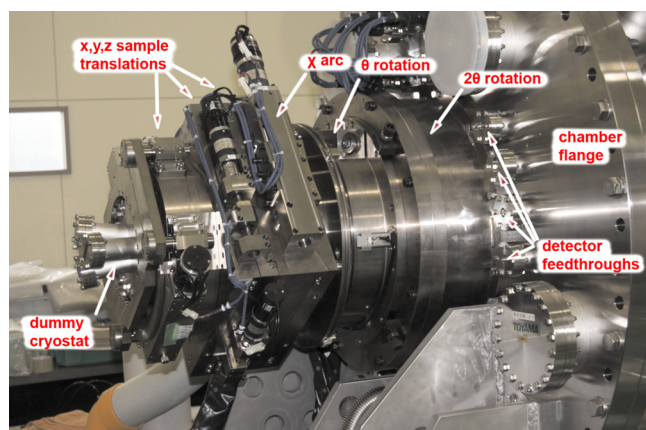


FIG. 2. (Color online) The external motion stages and back of the vacuum vessel. Mounted on the chamber in the right of the photo, the  $2\theta$ ,  $\theta$ ,  $\chi$ , and sample translation stages can be seen from right to left. A “dummy” cryostat is fitted for measuring the sphere of confusion. The flange of the chamber is 50 mm thick and braced to minimize deflection from vacuum forces. The vacuum pumps are not fitted for clarity.

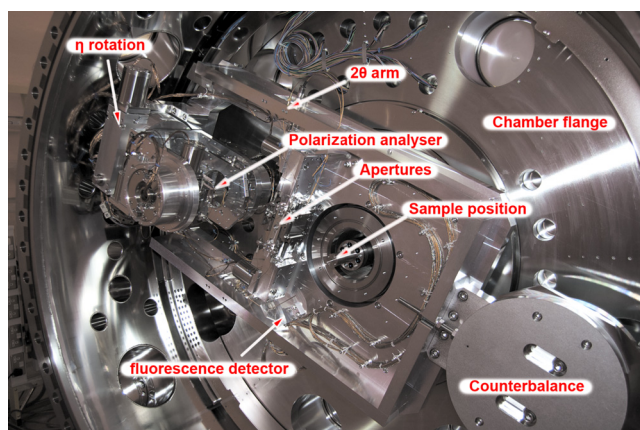


FIG. 3. (Color online) The internal mechanisms mounted in the vacuum chamber. The counterweight for the  $2\theta$  arm can be seen at the bottom right, with the two sets of apertures and polarization analyzer toward the top left. A complex cable management system was designed to separately carry the motion and detector cables from the back flange of the chamber to the end of the  $2\theta$  arm.



materials rather than single crystals for use as an analyzer. Although this has disadvantages in the intensity of the reflected beam, the analyzers can be designed such that the layer thickness produces a  $2\theta$  diffraction angle that is much closer to  $90^\circ$  for each required energy than is possible with single crystals.

Multilayer crystals can either be grown as a graded crystal, such that a number of different energies can be optimized with one multilayer, or a series of multilayers with different spacings can be used. RASOR is equipped with crossed translation stages on the  $\theta$  analyzer rotation such that either type can be accepted. Furthermore, these translations allow the movement of the multilayer carriage out of the scattered beam. A full  $2\theta$  detector rotation on the polarization analyzer allows the same detectors to be used for the direct beam and the polarization analyzer. The switch between these two configurations is possible under vacuum, assuming the required polarization analyzers are mounted. Multiple detectors can be mounted on the  $2\theta$  rotation of the polarization analyzer stage, such that a switching between detectors can be easily implemented under vacuum by redefining the zero point of this rotation.

## 2. Cryostat and sample environments

The cryostat is a custom modified Janis SuperTran ST-400 continuous flow  $\text{He}^4$  cryostat. The modifications have the cryostat mounted on a custom flange using either a viton o-ring or helicaflex seal. The cryostat has a rigid support tube that reduces in diameter to maximize the stiffness of the cryostat in the constricted space available. Subsequent to fitting the cryostat the concentricity of the  $\theta$  and  $2\theta$  circles was adjusted to maintaining the sphere of confusion to  $<50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . In addition to the standard feedthrough for the thermal control of the cryostat temperature, three more feedthroughs have been provided on the cryostat. A nine-pin feedthrough is connected through Kapton cable to a custom nine-pin male polyether ether ketone (PEEK) connector at the cold end on the cryostat. This is easily accessible with the cryostat mounted through the access door, and a number of PEEK female connectors are provided for user experiments, allowing regular setups to be configured. Typically four of the nine pins will be used for a second temperature sensor mounted close to the sample, with the remaining five pins used either for a piezorotation stage providing a  $\phi$  rotation or *in situ* transport measurements. In addition to the nine-pin connector, there are two miniature high voltage (MHV) feedthroughs on the cryostat connected through high voltage (HV) Kapton cable to a second PEEK connector. This has been specifically provided for applying an electric field to the sample, and each connector can support  $\pm 2\text{ kV}$ . Finally, a triaxial BNC feedthrough with a shielded coaxial Kapton cable is provided for drain current measurements from the sample.

Two radiation shields can be used with the cryostat. These screw onto the cryostat and are cooled by the exhaust  $\text{He}^4$  gas. A short radiation shield (Fig. 4) allows full access to the sample stage, and the sample can be mounted at any point on the sample stage and aligned on the beam with the sample translation motion. A second radiation shield com-

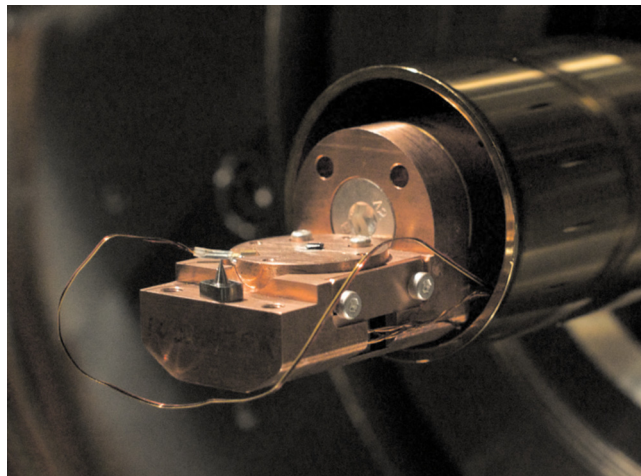


FIG. 4. (Color online) A sample mounted on the attocube piezorotator providing a  $\phi$  sample rotation. The power and encoder cables for the attocube are visible feeding into the bottom of the sample mount. The wires in the foreground lead to a silicon diode temperature sensor on the top of the attocube. The pin situated at the end of the sample mount is used for defining the center of rotation, and aligning this onto the x-ray beam. The gold sputtered short radiation shield allows maximum access to the sample position when the lowest sample temperature is not a priority.

pletely encloses the cold head of the cryostat except for a 10 mm wide slot covering  $180^\circ$  that is aligned such that the direct beam and any scattered beam can be detected. The slot size is designed such that the full range of  $\chi$  can still be utilized with this radiation shield.

The cryostat is terminated in a flat interface with a central tapped M6 hole surrounded by four 4/40 UNC tapped holes centered on a 19 mm diameter circle. The central tapped hole provides the primary attachment for the sample mounts and the four surrounding holes provide rotational alignment. Figure 4 shows a sample mount specifically designed for use with an attocube ANR50 piezorotator. The sample is mounted on closed cylinder sitting on the attocube. The cylinder walls are machined such that a uniform 0.25 mm gap exists between the sample cylinder and the attocube mount. Thermal conductance through the attocube has been shown to be extremely low; however with this configuration using the short radiation shield a base temperature of 80 K is easily achievable. The attocube is positioned such that the slotted radiation shield can also be used to obtain lower temperatures. The pin on the attocube mount (Fig. 4) is used for optically determining the center of rotation of the diffractometer, and positioning the center of rotation in the x-ray beam.

A diffraction and reflectivity sample mount has also been designed for use without the attocube. Using the short radiation shield a number of samples can be mounted for a single experiment, and a 40 mm translation of the cryostat along the  $\theta$  axis enables different sample to be studied without breaking vacuum. The radiation shields are attached to the cryostat and therefore translated with the cryostat. As such when the slotted radiation shield is used, a sample can only be mounted in one position below the slot. A base temperature of 15 K with the slotted radiation shield and 22 K with the short radiation shield has been achieved; however it is anti-

pated this will be improved by optimizing the interface between the sample mount and the cryostat head.

The sample position is monitored using three cameras mounted on the top and front of the vacuum chamber and one facing the incident beam. This viewport opposite the incident beam is fitted with a yttrium aluminum garnet crystal to show the beam position. The center of rotation can be determined using the top and front cameras while the diffractometer is under vacuum. This center of rotation can then be positioned onto the beam using the third camera.

### 3. Detector electronics

Two complementary detector systems have been installed. For studies requiring a very large dynamic range, such as reflectivity measurements, or very strong signals, a 10 mm<sup>2</sup> UHV compatible International Radiation Detectors, Inc. (IRD) photodiode is used. This can be used to detect the direct x-ray beam. The small current from the photodiode is carried along the inner core of a secondary shielded coaxial cable to a floating SMA feedthrough. This signal is then read by a Keithley 6514 Electrometer. Currently the 0–2 V output from this is passed through a voltage to frequency converter and into a standard Diamond VME scalar; however the Electrometer can also be read directly from RS232/GPIB. The dark current in the photodiode detector chain is in the region of 1.5 pA, with a noise of  $\sim 0.1$  pA.

For weak scattered signals, a KBr coated Burle 4869 channeltron<sup>®</sup> electron multiplier has been installed. The KBr coating increases the efficiency of the detector to soft x rays. The channeltron<sup>®</sup> is driven with a potential difference of  $\sim 2$  kV. In order to minimize the effect of detecting photoelectrons emitted from the sample, the front end of the channeltron<sup>®</sup> is charged to  $-2$  kV, with the other end connected to ground. The signal is carried to an SMA feedthrough by a Kapton coaxial cable, and is then amplified by an Ortec VT120 fast amplifier mounted on the chamber next to the feedthrough. The amplified pulses are then shaped by a FAST ComTec constant fraction discriminator that outputs TTL pulses to the scalar. The background counts from the channeltron<sup>®</sup> is in the region of  $0.1$  s<sup>-1</sup>.

Another 10 mm<sup>2</sup> photodiode and 4869 channeltron<sup>®</sup> detector are mounted slightly out of the diffraction plane, 208 and 165 mm, respectively, from the sample position. These can be used for fluorescence and electron yield measurements. The detector electronics are identical to that described above, with the exception of a reverse polarity on the channeltron<sup>®</sup> to optimize the electron detection.

### 4. Control system

RASOR is controlled through the Diamond Light Source EPICS (Ref. 64) system, and all vacuum and motion equipment is controlled directly through EPICS drivers. User experiments are conducted through Generic Data Acquisition (GDA),<sup>65</sup> which provided a user friendly graphical environment for data acquisition. This allows the user to scan both physical and pseudo motors, while counters can be defined as any EPICS process variable.

### 5. Vacuum system

The RASOR diffractometer is primarily designed as a user instrument. Therefore the vacuum system is designed to be both simple to use and fully interlocked. The primary pumping is provided by two 400 l s<sup>-1</sup> ion pumps, and two 500 l s<sup>-1</sup> turbo molecular pumps. The ion pumps are positioned either side of the chamber, one below the incident beam port, and the other symmetrically opposite. The two 500 l s<sup>-1</sup> turbo molecular pumps mounted on the back flange below the differential feedthrough. The ion pumps are equipped with titanium sublimation non-evaporable getter (NEG) pumps, with a cryoshroud cooled with liquid nitrogen on one pump and an ambient shroud on the other pump.

Prior to baking the system was able to achieve vacuum in the region of  $3 \times 10^{-8}$  mbar, and no presence of ice was observed while maintaining the sample at 15 K for 12 h. The  $\theta$  and  $2\theta$  rotation motions are provided by a double pumped differential feedthrough. This has two intermediary stages, the first high vacuum chamber separated from the experimental vacuum by a viton o-ring and pumped with an 80 l s<sup>-1</sup> turbo molecular pump. The second low vacuum stage, isolated through a second viton seal from the high vacuum stage, and a third viton seal from atmosphere is pumped by a scroll pump that also backs the turbo pump for the first stage.

Initial vacuum in the system is provided by a roots pump, which achieves a pressure of  $10^{-2}$  mbar in the chamber in 20 min. A further 2 hours of pumping with the two 500 l s<sup>-1</sup> turbo molecular pumps is required before the chamber can be opened to the x-ray beam, and 8 hours of pumping is required before the sample can be cooled to 15 K, to ensure no ice forms on the sample surface.

### B. Beamline and x-ray source characteristics

The RASOR endstation is available for general user proposals, and currently is accommodated on the I06-I nanoscience branchline at Diamond Light Source. This beamline is equipped with an APPLE-II undulator capable of providing right and left circularly polarized light, and linearly polarized light in the energy range of 80 to 2100 eV, with an energy resolving power of  $10^4$  at 400 eV. In addition to horizontal and vertical linear polarizations, the undulator has been commissioned to provide a rotation of the linear polarized light over 90°. This allows measurements of the anisotropy of the scattering process and combined with the polarization analyzer provides full linear polarization analysis. The branchline beam is focused using a 2:1 mirror providing a beamsize of 20  $\mu$ m vertically and 200  $\mu$ m horizontally. The smaller beamsize reduces the overall beam intensity, and this can be adjusted with the focusing mirror entrance slits.

RASOR will ultimately become a permanent endstation on beamline I10 (BLADE), also at Diamond, which is currently in development. User experiments with RASOR on I10 are scheduled for 2011. Beamline I10 will have a number of facilities not available on I06-I, including fast (10 Hz) switching of the beam polarization state, and a rotation of the linear polarization through 180°.

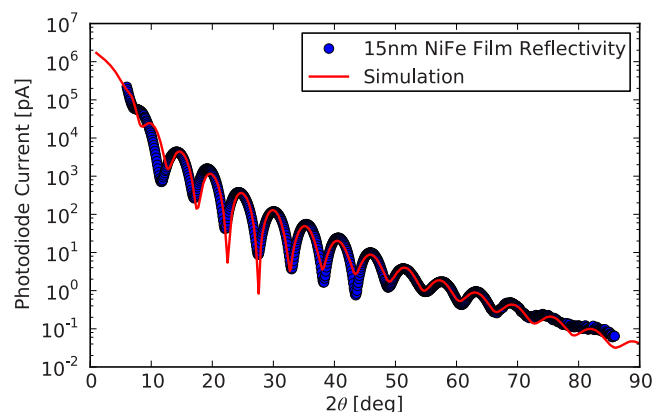


FIG. 5. (Color online) Reflectivity spectra from a 15 nm film of NiFe alloy, taken at 845 eV off resonant below the Ni  $L$  edges. Fringes can clearly be seen out to  $80^\circ$  in  $2\theta$ , and the data spans six orders of magnitude of intensity with a noise level of  $<0.1$  pA. The solid line shows the simulated reflectivity.

### III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

#### A. Reflectivity

Reflectivity spectra were taken from 10 and 15 nm films of NiFe on a silicon substrate. The films were magnetized with a NdFeB magnet parallel with the incident beam direction prior to mounting in the diffraction chamber. Figure 5 shows the specular reflectivity measured off resonance at 845 eV just below the nickel  $L$  edges. The spectra show fringes visible to  $>80^\circ$ , spanning six orders of magnitude. The data was measured with a  $500\ \mu\text{m}$  slit in front of the detector, and a 1 mm scatter slit closer to the sample. The positioning of the sample on the center of rotation and the incidence of the x-ray beam on this point is critical to the measurement of high angle reflectivity data. Prior to the measurements the center of rotation was defined optically using a fine pin mounted adjacent to the sample, and the position of the diffractometer was adjusted such that the center of rotation was accurately positioned within the beam. The specular reflectivity was simulated using the GENX program<sup>66</sup> that uses the Parratt recursion formula.<sup>67</sup> The best simulation of the data was generated using a 16.5 nm film of NiFe, with an additional 1 nm thick film with a slightly lower density above the NiFe layer. The numerical fitting returned a roughness between the NiFe and the silicon substrate, and at the top of the NiFe layer of  $\sim 3$  nm. Although the information retrieved from this simple sample is relatively trivial, the experiment demonstrates the ability of the diffractometer to measure Kiessig fringes to a very high  $\bar{Q}$ . This is due to a combination of precisely encoded  $\theta$  and  $2\theta$  stages, and the low divergence of the incident x-ray beam. The ability to accurately position the sample onto the center of rotation, and the coincidence of the center of rotation with the incident beam prevents the measurement from deviating from the specular ridge.

The absorption of x-rays by a ferromagnetic material depends on the polarization state of the incident x-rays, giving a dichroism response.<sup>68</sup> Although this is normally done by measuring the absorption, similar information can be retrieved from the energy dependence of the reflectivity. Figure

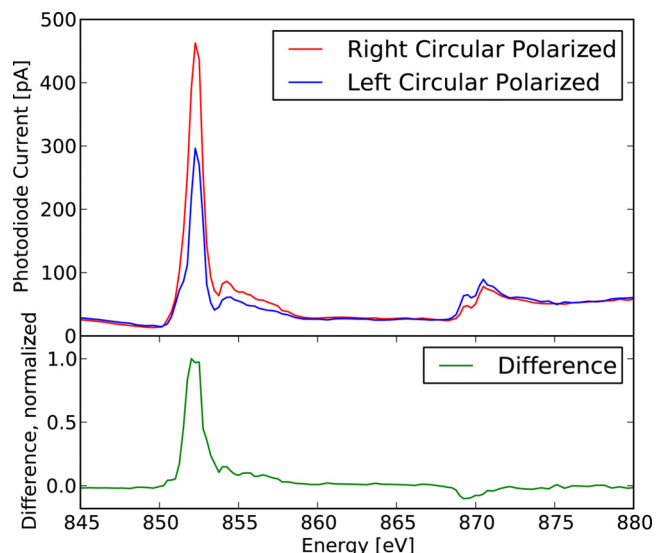


FIG. 6. (Color online) Dichroism of a magnetized 10 nm NiFe film at the Ni  $L$  edges. The lower panel shows the difference between the resonant intensity with left and right circularly polarized incident x rays. The data was collected at room temperature with the photodiode detector.

6 shows the energy dependence of the specular reflectivity of a 10 nm NiFe film at  $2\theta=30^\circ$  with left and right circularly polarized x-rays, with the lower panel showing the difference.

#### B. Diffraction

##### 1. Magnetic (001) reflection in $\text{La}_{1.05}\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_7$

$\text{La}_{1.05}\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_7$  is a bilayer manganite formed by layers of  $\text{MnO}_6$  octahedra separated by (La,Sr)O layers. This forms a very two-dimensional (2D) system, with phenomena such as charge and orbital ordering occurring within the  $\text{MnO}_6$  layers that form the  $ab$  plane. Below  $T_N \approx 180$  K, these layers form ferromagnetic sheets which are then coupled antiferromagnetically through superexchange between the sheets. Due to the  $I4/mmm$  space group the (001) Bragg reflection is normally forbidden, however the magnetic structure breaks the symmetry and a magnetic (001) reflection is allowed. This has previously been observed using soft x-ray diffraction.<sup>21</sup> Due to the very long ( $19.95\ \text{\AA}$ )  $c$ -axis, the (002) reflection of  $\text{La}_{1.05}\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_7$  is within the Ewald sphere at the Mn  $L$  edge. Figure 7 shows the resonant enhancement of the (001) magnetic reflection through the Mn  $L_3$  (635–645 eV) and  $L_2$  (648–658 eV) edges. By comparison to previous results, the resonance shows significantly more structure at the  $L_3$  edge. Whereas previous diffraction data had shown two main peaks at 638 and 642 eV, at least three distinct features can now be seen within each of these peaks. This is an indication of both the high energy resolution of I06 and the high angular resolution of RASOR.

In addition to resonance at the Mn  $L_3$  edge, a resonant signal was observed at the oxygen  $K$  edge (Fig. 8). There are two possible explanations for the presence of this signal. Either there is a small magnetic moment on the oxygen ions induced by a hybridization between the manganese ions and oxygen ligands, or alternatively the signal arises from an anisotropic scattering factor due to an anisotropic oxygen  $2p$



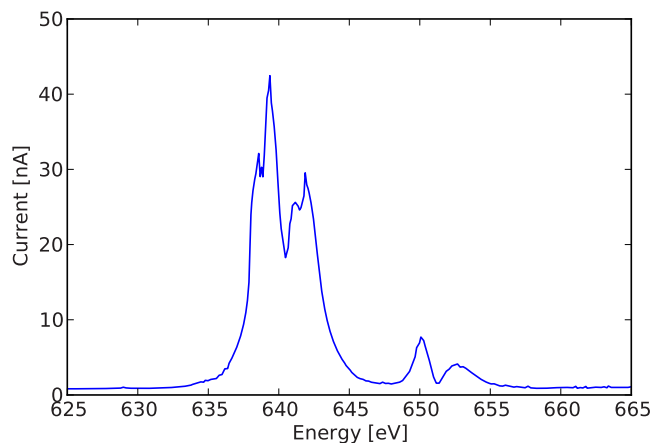


FIG. 7. (Color online) Resonance of the (001) magnetic reflection in  $\text{La}_{1.05}\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_7$ . Data were collected with a photodiode detector with the sample at 15 K. Previously unobserved structure in the  $L_3$  edge at 635–643 eV can be seen.

orbital. This anisotropy breaks the global symmetry of the  $I4/mmm$  structure and thus a weak signal is seen at the otherwise forbidden (001) Bragg position.

The weak resonance at the oxygen edge, much weaker than that at the manganese edge, was used as a test for the two detector systems. Figure 8 shows the resonance measured both with the photodiode and channeltron<sup>®</sup> detector. It is clear with this reflection that the channeltron<sup>®</sup> shows a much higher signal to noise ratio, and it is presumed that for much weaker signals this will be of even greater benefit. As the channeltron<sup>®</sup> is a photon rather than a photon flux detector the gain in the signal to noise ratio through increased counting times is much more pronounced.

## 2. Incident polarization dependence of charge scattering in $\text{LuFe}_2\text{O}_4$

The mechanism enabling multiferroic properties in materials is far from fully understood; however it is common for materials to possess either a cycloidal magnetic order or occasionally antiferromagnetic order that interacts with an electric polarization from the covalent bonding between anions. In contrast, the electric polarization in  $\text{LuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  may

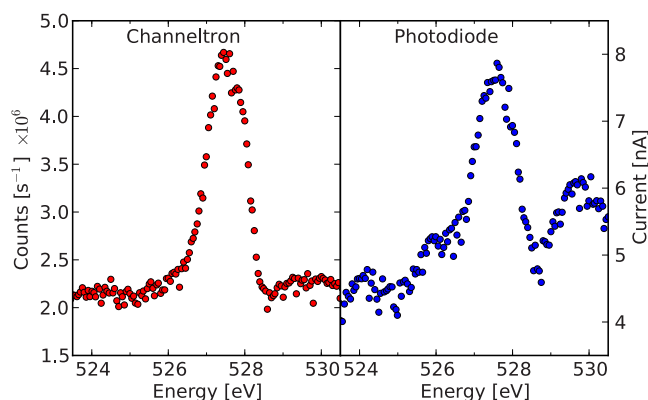


FIG. 8. (Color online) Oxygen resonance of the magnetic (001) reflection in  $\text{La}_{1.05}\text{Sr}_{1.95}\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_7$ . The resonance is speculated to arise from hybridization between the Mn and O in the  $\text{MnO}_6$  octahedra. The resonance was measured at 15 K with both the photodiode and channeltron<sup>®</sup> detectors.

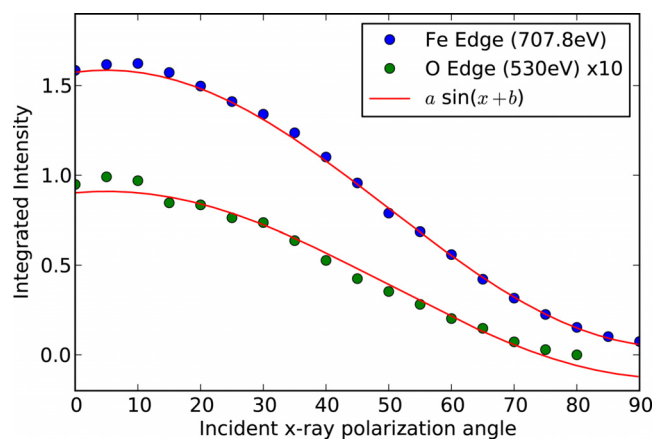


FIG. 9. (Color online) Intensity of the  $(2\tau, -\tau, 3/2)$  charge order reflection at the  $\text{Fe } L_2$  edge as a function of the angle of the incident beam polarization. The data was measured using the photodiode detector chain with a sample at 285 K. The dependence fits a sinusoidal dependence.

well be driven by a frustrated charge order. Thus the study of this charge order is particularly important not only to understand the properties of  $\text{LuFe}_2\text{O}_4$ , but of multiferroicity in general. This material has the additional benefit in that these phenomena occur at room temperature, and thus are potentially useful for novel device development.

The charge order in  $\text{LuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  has been observed<sup>69</sup> through reflections at both  $(1/3, 1/3, n/2)$  where  $n=\text{odd}$  and  $(2\tau, \tau, n)$  type positions. Here we observe the charge order reflection at  $(2\tau, -\tau, 3/2)$  where  $\tau=0.028$  at the  $\text{Fe } L_3$  edge and oxygen  $K$  edge. A particularly useful aspect of resonant scattering is the ability to determine the anisotropy of the diffraction signal which can uncover both the anisotropy of the system and help determine the origin of the scattering. Figure 9 demonstrates the ability to observe such anisotropy with soft x-ray diffraction. The angle of linear polarization of the x-ray beam was altered in  $5^\circ$  steps from  $0^\circ$ , equivalent to horizontal linearly polarized x-rays, to  $90^\circ$ , corresponding to vertical polarization. The highest intensity was observed with close to horizontal linear polarization with an  $a \sin(x+b)$  function closely fitting the data. The high intensity with horizontally polarized (or  $\sigma$ -incident) x-rays is expected for a charge order reflection, however more detailed analysis and further data will be reported in a future publication.<sup>70</sup>

## IV. UPGRADE PATH

The diffractometer is specifically designed such that upgrades can easily be encompassed, tailored either to a general user requirement, or for an individual experiment. Of particular interest and demand is an applied magnetic field for the sample. Suitable mounting holes have been provided on the internal  $\theta$  rotation, and two magnets are currently in development. First, a dipole electromagnet aligned with the field direction along the beam, producing a field in the order of 0.1 T. Second a more complex vector field magnet that will enable the complete control of the magnetic field direction within the plane of the sample surface. Finally there is the provision for a much larger ( $\sim 1$  T) electromagnet in a



fixed position. All of these magnets could be used with the  $\phi$  sample rotation to investigate any anisotropy of the effect caused by an applied magnetic field.

In addition to mounting points on the  $\theta$  circle, the 2 $\theta$  arm has been specifically designed to accept an addition 5 kg load at the detector position without compromising the sphere of confusion. This is primary to accommodate a 2D area detector. There are a number of options for area detectors; however designing a UHV system reduces the options. There is a commercially available charge coupled device (CCD) based detector that has been successfully used at the Swiss Light Source. Potentially of greater interest is the development of complementary metal-oxide semiconductor detectors. These can be designed with a much higher readout time, and a higher dynamic range than CCD chips. In particular the “Vanilla” detector chip<sup>71</sup> that has recently been characterized running in a back-thinned mode for ultraviolet detection,<sup>72</sup> developed through the M-I<sup>3</sup> consortium<sup>73</sup> may well be applicable both for soft x-ray and UHV conditions.

## V. CONCLUSION

We have developed a soft x-ray diffractometer for single crystal diffraction and thin film reflectivity, and installed the instrument at Diamond Light Source. We have demonstrated the capability of the instrument through reflectivity and dichroism measurements from NiFe thin films, and single crystal diffraction from LuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and La<sub>1.05</sub>Sr<sub>1.95</sub>Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>. The potential for full polarization analysis by combining a rotation of the incident linear beam polarization has been described, and the rotation of the incident beam demonstrated through measurements of anisotropic charge reflections.

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